

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Specialist Craig L. Nelson.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army National Guard Specialist Craig L. Nelson upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death in combat of Specialist Nelson; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Nelson was a native of Bossier City and a graduate of Airline High School there; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Nelson was a dedicated, 21 year-old soldier who served his country with great distinction until he was grievously wounded on December 16, 2004, by an improvised explosive device detonated by enemy forces in the deadly streets of Baghdad, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Nelson was treated and first aid administered by his old and dear childhood friend and comrade in arms, Specialist Ryan Jacobsen, who saw to it that Specialist Nelson was medically evacuated to a safe location away from the fighting; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Nelson received the best possible medical treatment and attention possible and was subsequently flown back to the United States and admitted to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, he ultimately succumbed to his

1 combat injuries on December 29, 2004; and

2 WHEREAS, Specialist Nelson's mother, Lois Jo Burney Nelson, believes with great
3 conviction that her son would not have left Iraq alive and survived for nearly two weeks if
4 it had not been for the quick and well-trained soldiers who administered emergency medical
5 treatment to her badly-wounded son; and

6 WHEREAS, Specialist Nelson will always be remembered by his family, friends, and
7 brothers in arms for always placing his country's needs, as well as those of his fellow
8 soldiers ahead of his own, despite the dangers surrounding him as he traveled the dangerous
9 roads of Baghdad; and

10 WHEREAS, Specialist Nelson often lifted the spirits of his homesick comrades and
11 brought a smile to their faces with his jokes and the light mood he would set with his
12 sometimes whimsical behavior, despite the deadly serious nature of the mission he was
13 engaged in; and

14 WHEREAS, Specialist Nelson will forever symbolize in the strongest images
15 possible that freedom is never free and that extraordinary men such as he will always be
16 needed to make sure that tyrants, terrorists, and dictators are never victorious in the eternal
17 struggle to keep the flame of liberty burning brightly.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
19 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a
20 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army National Guard Specialist Craig
21 L. Nelson.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution be
23 transmitted to Specialist Nelson's mother, Lois Jo Burney Nelson, and his sister, Carly
24 Thompson.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army National Guard Specialist Craig L. Nelson.